

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 4, 5 and 6 are amended; and Claims 15-16 are newly added by the present amendment. Support for the new and amended claims can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.¹ No new matter is presented.

In the Final Office Action of November 13, 2009 (herein, the FA), Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hashizume et al. (U.S. 2003/0142955, herein Hashizume) in view of Smith et al. (U.S. 5,822,542, herein Smith) and Seo (U.S. 6,798,980).

In response to the above noted rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 1, 5 and 6 recite novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Independent Claim 1, for example, recites, in part, an information processing apparatus capable of copying image information recorded on a first recording medium onto a second recording medium, comprising:

... moving means for selecting and moving one of the at least one image information icon in the copying operation window to the second icon;
determining means for determining if the moving means moves the one of the at least one image information icon to the second icon;
means for ***automatically displaying a plurality options to be selected*** based on a result of the determining means ***prior to copying the image information*** recorded on the first recording medium onto the second recording medium;
first setting means for setting whether a data format of the image information determined as an object of copying by the moving means should be converted ***based on a selection received responsive to the displayed plurality of options ...***

¹ e.g., specification, at least at Figs. 15-16 and p. 38-39.

Independent Claims 5-6, while directed to alternative embodiments, are amended to recite similar features.

In rejecting the claimed features directed to requesting user input based on the result of determining whether an image information icon is moved to the second icon corresponding to the second recording medium (to which the data is recorded), the FA relies on paragraphs [0057-0061] of Hashizume.

This cited portion of Hashizume refers to Fig. 8 and generally describes a process of copying (i.e. “dubbing”) images by a control computer 203, from a video reproducing apparatus 201 to a video recording/reproducing apparatus 207, which records the input image in the video recording medium 210. Hashizume further describes that the control computer 203 monitors an image entered from the switcher 213 by using software stored in a memory of the control computer 203 to detect a scene change point, image disturbance by noises, a presence/absence of a subliminal image and the like and store a still image added with a time code representative of the time when the change point or noises are detected, in the log image file unit 214 as video log data. A GUI operation/ control screen is displayed on the display 204 and if a log image is to be viewed, a log image display push button displayed on the GUI operation/control screen on the display 204 is clicked to pop up the top window with log images.

Thus, Hashizume merely describes that a log may be displayed based on a user input, and the log may be a video log that includes still images corresponding to video that has been recorded from the a video reproducing apparatus 201 to a video recording/reproducing apparatus 207. The Advisory Action of February 3, 2010 (herein, the AA) clarifies that the images included in the log file are asserted as being analogous to requesting user input because “... the log could provide data to the user that would provide an input back into the system. Therefore, the requesting of user input is being read on images or data provided by

the system to the user.” Thus, the AA appears to clarify that the video log data of Hashizume is being asserted as analogous to the claimed features directed to requesting user input.

As noted above, however, Claim 1 is amended to recite “*automatically* displaying *a plurality options to be selected* based on a result of the determining means *prior to copying the image information* recorded on the first recording medium onto the second recording medium”. The log file in Hashizume, in contrast, is displayed only based on a user pushing a button displayed on the GUI operation/control screen on the display 204 to display the video log data. Thus, the log file in Hashizume is not automatically displayed based on a result of determining that at least one image information icon is moved to the second icon, as claimed. Moreover, the log file in Hashizume merely displays video log data and not a plurality options to be selected. Moreover, the log file in Hashizume is generated based on video that has already been recorded from the video reproducing apparatus 201 to a video recording/reproducing apparatus 207. Thus, the log file indicates data that has already been copied and does not display a plurality of options *prior to copying the image information* recorded on the first recording medium onto the second recording medium.

Claim 1 further recites that information processing apparatus includes “first setting means for setting whether or not *a data format of the image information determined as an object of copying* by the moving means *should be converted based on a selection received responsive to the displayed plurality of options*”. As noted above, Hashizume fails to teach or suggest automatically displaying a plurality of options for selection prior to the copy operation, and therefore also fails to teach or suggest that one of these options corresponds to a conversion of a data format of the copied image data.

The FA cites paragraphs [0009], [0018] and [0048-0049] of Hashizume as disclosing the image conversion feature. As an initial matter, none of these cited portions of Hashizume relate to changing a data format based on the generation and/or display of a log file. Claim 1

clearly recites that the setting is ***based on a selection received responsive to the displayed plurality of options***, thereby relying on antecedent basis to the feature of “***automatically displaying a plurality options to be selected*** based on a result of the determining means ***prior to copying the image information ...***” None of the above noted portions of Hashizume, however, relate to setting a format based on “***automatically displaying a plurality options to be selected ...***” Thus, Hashizume fails to disclose “setting whether or not ***a data format of the image information determined as an object of copying*** by the moving means ***should be converted based on a selection received responsive to the displayed plurality of options***”, as recited in amended Claim 1.

Moreover, none of paragraphs [0009], [0018] and [0048-0049] of Hashizume teach or suggest requesting a data format conversion, much less that such a request is determined prior to a copy operation, as claimed. Paragraph [0009] of Hashizume merely describes, in general terms, the process of copying (i.e. “dubbing”) images by a control computer 203, from a video reproducing apparatus 201 to a video recording/reproducing apparatus 207. Paragraph [0018] of Hashizume describes the process of recording a log file that indicates abnormalities, screen switchovers, etc. while the recording is in process, and fails to teach or suggest setting a format conversion of data, whatsoever. Finally, paragraphs [0048-0049] of Hashizume relate to Fig. 15, which shows a hardware configuration having a plurality of video reproducing apparatuses 201-1, 201-2, etc. that can be selected as sources for data that is sent to the video recording/reproducing apparatus, and is no now way related to converting a data format.

Hashizume, therefore, fails to disclose receiving a request for format data conversion, whatsoever, much less that such a request is based on a selection from “***automatically displaying a plurality options to be selected*** based on a result of the determining means ***prior***

to copying the image information recorded on the first recording medium onto the second recording medium”.

Hashizume, therefore, fails to teach or suggest that his control computer 203 includes “means for *automatically displaying a plurality options to be selected* based on a result of the determining means *prior to copying the image information* recorded on the first recording medium onto the second recording medium” and “first setting means for setting whether a data format of the image information determined as an object of copying by the moving means should be converted *based on a selection received responsive to the displayed plurality of options*”, as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

Further, neither Smith nor Seo remedy the above noted deficiencies of Hashizume.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1, 5 and 6 (and the claims that depend therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Claims 15-16 are newly added, which recite features mirroring those recited in dependent Claim 4, and depend from independent Claims 5 and 6, respectively. For this reason alone, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 15 and 16 are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the applied references, neither alone, nor in combination, teach or suggest “setting whether the image information of an original determined as the object of copying should be deleted *based on a selection received responsive to the displayed plurality of options*” and “either deleting or placing into a disabled state the image information of the original of the object of copying recorded on the first recording medium after the processing of said writing means is completed based on the setting whether the image should be deleted”, as recited in dependent Claims 4, 15 and 16.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-16 is patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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